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[Executive Doc. 18.]

# MESSAGE

FROM

HIS EXCELLENCY, GOV. DAVID S. REID,

TRANSMITTING

A COMMUNICATION

FROM

MARYLAND,

AND

RESOLTIONS FROM VERMONT.

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RALEIGH:
Thos. J. Lemay, Printer to the State.
1851.

SENATE, 13th Jan. 1851.

[Ordered to be sent to the House of Commons with a proposition to print.]

HOUSE COMS. Jan. 14th, 1851.

[The above proposition was concurred in by the House of Commons.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
*Raleigh*, Jan. 13, 1851.

*To the General Assembly:*

I herewith transmit a communication from the President of the Convention of the people of Maryland, enclosing a Report and Resolution, passed by that body, in relation to the compromise measures enacted by the present Congress. Also Resolutions passed by the Legislature of the State of Vermont "for the promotion of peace," accompanied by a letter of his Excellency the Governor of that State, requesting that the same may be laid before the Legislature of this State.

DAVID S. REID.

p 1754

[The Communications referred to are marked A and B, and follow in the order in which they are mentioned in the foregoing letter from the Governor.]

# [A.]
# COMMUNICATION

## From the President of the Convention of the People of Maryland.

## STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

ANNAPOLIS, *December 12th*, 1850.

*To His Excellency*,

DAVID S. REID, Governor of N. Carolina.

SIR:—By the direction of the Convention of the People of Maryland assembled, to revise the Constitution, I have the honor to transmit to you, a Report and Resolution unanimously adopted, in relation to the measures of compromise, passed by the Congress of the United States at the last Session.

I am also instructed to ask your Excellency to lay the Report and Resolution with the action of this Convention, before the Legislature of your State at its next Session.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

J. G. CHAPMAN,

*President of the Convention.*

BY THE CONVENTION.

DECEMBER, 10th, 1850.

Read, unanimously adopted, and 5,000 copies ordered to be printed.

By order,

GEO. G. BREWER, Secretary to Convention.

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# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

# MARYLAND REFORM CONVENTION,

ON THE

LATE ACTS OF CONGRESS FORMING THE COMPROMISE, ETC.

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Mr. CHAMBERS, from the Committee presented the following Report:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States was designed more effectually to secure the civil and political rights of the citizens of every part of the Union, and especially to protect their persons and property as well in other States, as in the State in which they might reside, *and whereas*, amongst the rights of property there was none more generally known or more distinctly recognized, than that of holding slaves; and whereas, the peculiar risk of loss to which this species of property was exposed, was so obvious, and the absolute necessity of a suitable provision to guard against it so universally felt, that no one hesitated to acknowledge that without such provision the Union could not have been framed; *and whereas*, certain persons in various portions of the U-

nion, instigated by a spirit of fanaticism, have combined for the purpose of openly resisting and defying the guarantees of the constitution and laws by which alone the slave-holding States can be assured of the rightful possession, and just protection of their property, we the members of the Convention of Maryland, lately elected from the body of the people, and intimately acquainted with their feelings and opinions, deem it proper to declare in calm and deliberate terms, what we believe to be their views in relation to the exciting subjects to which we have referred and do,—Therefore,

1st. *Resolve*, That the Constitution of the United States, has accomplished all the objects, civil and political, which its most sanguine framers and friends anticipated, and that the affections of the people of Maryland are justly rivetted to its principles, by the memory of the sacrifices of the wise and good men who framed it, as well as by the blessings it has so liberally dispensed to our country.

2nd. That a proper appreciation of these blessings should lead every State in the Union to adopt all such measures, as from time to time may be necessary to give complete and full effect to any provision of the constitution or of the laws pursuant thereto, intended for the protection of any portion of this great family of States.

3rd. That while we do not conceal that the several acts of Congress passed at their late session, relating to the admission of California, to the territorial governments of Utah and New Mexico, to the adjustment of the boundary of Texas, to the prohibition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, and to the reclamation of fugitives from labor, do not, to the extent we desired, meet the just demands of the South; nevertheless, viewing these several acts as parts of an entire system, to be adhered to and maintained as a whole, proceeding on the basis of compromise, and intended by a permanent adjustment of so many critical questions, to heal the public agitation and perpetuate the Union, they have received our acquiescence, and have inspired us with admira-

tion of those eminent statesmen, who rising above the influence of party and sectional considerations, periled their well earned reputation, for the enduring welfare of their country.

4th. That the vigorous and faithful execution by the Gencral Government of all laws made in pursuance of the Constitution, is its primary duty, and affords the only security for thc just protection of the rights and property of the citizcns, and for the permanency of the Union; and it is equally thc duty of all good citizens to encourage and support the officers of the Government in the execution of the laws, and to discountenance and rebuke the efforts of those who scek to subvert them; and while therefore we entertain every proper confidence in the ability and determination of the Chief Magistrate of the Union, faithfully to perform his duty in the present crisis, and take the opportunity to tender to him our assurances that in any emergency that should require it, he may safely rely upon the cordial co-operation of the people of Maryland, we cannot withhold the warmest expression of our firm and continued reliance upon the patriotism of those of our countrymen, in all sections of the Union, who havc fearlessly asserted the constitutional rights of thc South; and in view of the calamities which must ensue, if those rights continuc to be violated, we would earnestly suggest to the Governments of the non-slaveholding States, the propriety and importance of enacting such laws as will facilitatc the recovery of fugitives from labor: and upon tho citizcns of cvery State, we would anxiously urge the absolute necessity of maintaining and cnforcing each and all of the measures of adjustment adopted at thc last session of Congress.

5th. That of the aforesaid serics of laws that intended to ensure the rcstoration of fugitives from labor is the only one professing to protect the peculiar rights and institutions of the Southern States, from the mischicvous hostility of a wicked fanaticism in other portions of the Union, is but a tardy and mcagre measure of compliance with the clear, explicit and imperative injunctions of the Constitution, and holds

out the only hope that the protection which the South was authorized to expect from the Union of the States, to this species of property will be afforded to them, and being the chief inducement to the South for its accession to the compromise, the repeal of that law, or the failure to enforce its provisions, could only be regarded as evidence of a determined purpose in other States, to violate the sacred charter of our rights or a want of ability in the General Government to enforce the laws made for our protection, and in either event there would be a failure to comply with the solemn obligations which give to the constitution its chief value, and binding force, and which could not be violated, or deliberately evaded without leading to a dissolution of the Union.

E. F. CHAMBERS, Chairman,
JAMES R. HOPEWELL,
A. RANDALL,
GEO. W. WEEMS,
WM. D. MERRICK,
JAMES M. BUCHANAN,
EDWARD LLOYD,
JOHN DENNIS,
LOUIS McLANE,
WILLIAM H. TUCK,
WILLIAM GRASON,
L. L. DIRICKSON,
SAMUEL M. MAGRAW,
R. C. CARTER,
LEWIS P. FIERY,
WASHINGTON WATERS,
W. M. HOLLYDAY,
JACOB SHOWER,
ROBERT J. BRENT,
JOHN D. GAITHER,
WM. T. GOLDSBOROUGH.

Which was read.

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# CONVENTION

ON THE

# REPORT.

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On the question being put, "will the Convention adopt said resolutions?"

Mr. Chambers of Kent, moved for the yeas and nays, which being ordered appeared as follows:

AFFIRMATIVE:—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Ricaud, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Dalrymple, Sollers, Merrick, Jenifer, Buchanan, Bell, Welsh, Chandler, Ridgely, Lloyd, Dashiell, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Miller, McLane, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, McCubbin, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Dirickson, McMaster, Fooks, Shriver, Biser, Annan, Sappington, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Carter Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Brent of Baltimore city, Sher-

wood, of Baltimore city, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Harbine, Neill, Michael, Newcomer, Waters, Kilgour, Davis, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Ege, Shower, Cockey and Brown—81.

So the resolution was unanimously assented to.

[B.]

# COMMUNICATION

From the Governor of Vermont.

## STATE OF VERMONT.

||SEAL.||

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
*Montpelier, Vt., Nov.* 13, 1850.

*His Excellency the Governor of North Carolina :*

SIR :—I have the honor to transmit to you the accompanying Resolutions relating to the subject of Peace, recently adopted by the General Assembly of this State, to the end that your Excellency may cause them to be laid before the Legislature of the State over which you preside.

I have the honor to be,

With consideration of high respect,

Your obedient servant,

CH. K. WILLIAMS.

*By the Governor,*

R. T. ANDREW, *Secretary.*

# RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE.

1. *Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives,* That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to press upon the consideration of their respective Houses, with as little delay as may be, the propriety of a joint resolution, requesting the President of the United States to propose to all nations, with whom we have regular diplomatic intercourse, the establishment of a permanent Board to settle all international disputes or claims.

2. *Resolved,* That the Governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, and to the Executive of each of the States of the Union, inviting the latter to lay the same before their respective Legislatures, and request their co-operation.

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STATE OF VERMONT.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
*Montpelier, November* 14, 1850.

I hereby certify that the foregoing are correct copies of Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of this State, on file in this Office.

FERRAND F. MERRILL,
*Secretary of State.*